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## *CIA: Past, Present, Future*

WHEN ADMIRAL Stanfield Turner became director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he faced the onerous task of giving credibility to those invariable references to "widespread abuses of the past." It was not enough to leave the nation with the impression that the CIA had once behaved as though it retained the Mafia as general counsel.

The hard approach of a housecleaning at headquarters was expected from President Carter's original nominee for director, Theodore C. Sorensen. But the former Kennedy aide was beaten back by CIA friends in the Senate.

No one knew what to expect from Adm. Turner, the Sorensen substitute. As it turns out he has followed his own path, attempting to manipulate the considerable public pressure for reform into broad reorganization of the nation's intelligence agencies under a single directorship, presumably to be occupied by himself.

His course has left most guessing while satisfying none. But those who are, most disgruntled, members of the intelligence establishment, are having their feelings aired with the resignation of CIA Deputy Director E. Henry Knoche, a

career officer unassociated with past abuses. He has been opposed to both Turner's self-aggrandizement and his management, which has been described as stand-offish and abrasive.

The White House had begun to evaluate the Turner plan and to question its worst effect, the homogenizing of intelligence estimates now dispersed among the National Security Agency, the CIA and Defense and State departments.

Thus Mr. Carter's substitution of an unknown military figure for a proponent of solid reform has become a personal embarrassment to himself. The controversy moreover has become an additional obstacle to legislative safeguards against abuse by intelligence gatherers.

To restore public faith in the agencies and in the function of intelligence, Mr. Carter must show a fresh commitment to the unfinished business of true reform. He has the chance to do this in searching for Mr. Knoche's successor.

It will be a grave mistake and a missed opportunity if Mr. Carter chooses, as he appears about to, a deputy director from among the vested ranks of those touched by the agency's incredible past.